

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A support for pneumatically blocking an optical lens (200) on a machine or a device, the support, comprising:

blocking means for receiving and holding one face (202; 201) of the optical lens, and

coupling means (3; 22; 32) for fastening the block on a corresponding member of the machine or device,

said blocking means including a central cavity (8; 24; 34) and possessing a gasket (9; 25; 35) possessing at least one annular portion (9; 25; 36) against which the lens is brought to bear in order to co-operate with said cavity and said gasket to define a suction chamber (11),

the blocking means comprising abutment means (10; 26; 40) arranged to provide the optical lens with a rigid seat after the gasket has deformed elastically, wherein,

the abutment means and the gasket are arranged in such a way that, in order to bring the lens into abutment against the abutment means, the annular portion of the gasket comes into contact with the lens so that the gasket deforms in compression

over a width of the gasket that is at least three times greater than the thickness of said annular portion of the gasket.

2. (previously presented) A blocking support according to claim 1, in which the gasket (9; 25; 35) prevents the optical lens from turning solely by friction against the face concerned of said lens, to the exclusion of any mechanical indexing means.

3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented) A blocking support according to claim 1, in which the abutment means comprise an annular bearing member (10).

5. (previously presented) A blocking support according to claim 4, in which the gasket (9) is in the form of a ring and the annular abutment member is constituted by a circular ridge (10) surrounding the central cavity (8), with a setback (12) being formed outside the ridge with the inside edge of the gasket (9) being engaged around the setback, said setback presenting a depth (e_{12}) that is perceptibly smaller than the thickness (e_9) of said gasket.

6. (withdrawn) A blocking support according to claim 1, in which the abutment means comprise three spot abutment members (26; 40) that are not in alignment and form a tripod support.

7. (withdrawn) A blocking support according to claim 6, in which the gasket (25) presents an outside edge or an inside edge that becomes wedged inside or outside the studs.

8. (withdrawn) A blocking support according to claim 6, in which the three studs pass through corresponding openings in the gasket in order to wedge it.

9. (previously presented) A blocking support according to claim 1, in which, with the exception of the gasket (9; 25; 35) which is a separate and elastically-compressible part, the entire assembly and in particular the abutment means (10; 26; 40) is made as a single rigid part (1).

10. (currently amended) A blocking support according to claim 2, in which said annular portion (9; 25; 36) of the gasket is flat in shape, ~~presenting a width that is at least three times greater than its thickness.~~

11. (previously presented) A blocking support according to claim 2, in which the abutment means comprise an annular bearing member (10).

12. (currently amended) A blocking support according to claim [[3]] 1, in which the abutment means comprise an annular bearing member (10).

13. (withdrawn) A blocking support according to claim 2, in which the abutment means comprise three spot abutment members (26; 40) that are not in alignment and form a tripod support.

14. (currently amended, withdrawn) A blocking support according to claim [[3]] 1, in which the abutment means comprise three spot abutment members (26; 40) that are not in alignment and form a tripod support.

15. (new) A support for pneumatically blocking an optical lens (200), the support, comprising:

a plate (2) for receiving the lens (200) that is to be blocked, the plate including a top face (7) and a central cavity (8);

a coupling (3) projecting from the plate, the coupling (3) for securing the support to a machine tool or a measurement device;

a setback (12) located on the top face (7) of the plate (2) and extending outwardly to an outermost periphery of the plate (9);

a gasket having an annular portion (9) with an inside edge of the gasket (9) engaged against an edge of the setback,

the lens, when blocked, being in contact against the annular portion of the gasket in order to co-operate with said cavity and said gasket to define a suction chamber (11); and

abutment elements (10; 26; 40) arranged to provide the lens with a rigid seat with the gasket deformed elastically in compression,

with the lens blocked, the annular portion (9) of the gasket being a flat ring deformed in compression and having a radial width (19) at least three times greater than a thickness (e9) of the annular portion (9) with an entire lower surface of the annular portion in contact with the setback and an entire upper surface of the annular portion in contact with the lens.

16. (new) A blocking support according to claim 15, wherein,

a height (e12) of the setback (12) is less than the thickness (e9) of the annular portion (9) of the gasket.